Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A drug delivery system comprising a contact lens having dispersed therein as nanoparticles an ophthalmic drug nanoencapsulated ~~in a~~ with an encapsulation material, wherein said encapsulation material is selected dependent upon ophthalmic drug characteristics wherein a hydrophobic encapsulation material is selected for a hydrophobic ophthalmic drug and a hydrophilic encapsulation material is selected for a hydrophilic ophthalmic drug; and ~~from which~~ wherein said ophthalmic drug is capable of diffusion into and migration through said contact lens and into the post-lens tear film when said contact lens is placed on the eye; ~~and~~ wherein said diffusion provides extended or time-release delivery of said ophthalmic drug.

2. (Currently Amended) The drug delivery system of claim 1 wherein each said nanoparticle is less than 200 nm. ~~nanoparticles are of a size and are dispersed within said contact lens in an amount such that said contact lens remains optically transparent, wherein optically transparent is a degree of transparency equal to that of p-HEMA or other material employed as a contact lens~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The drug delivery system of claim 2 wherein said nanoparticles are dispersed within said contact lens in an amount such that said contact lens remains optically transparent, wherein optically transparent is a degree of transparency equal to that of p-HEMA or other material employed as a contact lens and wherein said amount of nanoparticles is from about 1 to about 5%, by weight, based on the weight of the contact lens.

4. (Currently Amended) The drug delivery system of claim 1 wherein said contact lens ~~is a soft contact lens~~ comprises poly 2-hydroxyethylmethacrylate, and wherein the transmittance of visible light through said contact lens is at least 66%.

5. (Currently Amended) The drug delivery system of claim ~~4 wherein said contact lens comprises poly 2-hydroxyethylmethacrylate~~ 1, wherein said hydrophilic encapsulation material is a liposome.

6. (Currently Amended) The drug delivery system of claim 1 wherein said ophthalmic drug is ~~lidocaine, timolol, ciproflaxin, cyclosporin A, or pilocarpine, or wherein said drug is~~ an antiparisitic, an anti-protozoal, a steroid, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory, an antibiotic or mixtures thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) The drug delivery system of claim 1 wherein said ~~ophthalmic drug is nanoencapsulated with an encapsulation material in an oil in water emulsion~~ hydrophobic encapsulation material is a microemulsion.

8. (Currently Amended) The drug delivery system of claim 7, ~~wherein~~ said encapsulation material ~~is~~ comprising: chitosan ~~nanoparticles~~, human serum albumin ~~nanoparticles~~, biodegradable poly (alkylcynoacrylates), polybutylcyanoacrylate, polyhexylcyanoacrylate, polyethylcyanoacrylate, (polyisobutylcyanoacrylat- e), polycyanoacylate, silica ~~nanospheres~~, PEG'ylated core-shell ~~nanoparticles~~, biodegradable PLGA (poly(D,L-lactide-co-glycolide)) ~~particles~~, (poly lactic acid), PGA, PLG (poly(D,L-glycolide)) polymeric ~~nanoparticles~~, microemulsion ~~nanodroplets~~, liposomes, biocompatible gliadin ~~nanoparticles~~, low pH sensitive PEG stabilized plasmid-lipid ~~nanoparticles~~, biodegradable calcium phosphate, legumin, tocopherol derivatives stabilized ~~nano-sized~~ emulsion ~~particles~~, polysaccherides grafted with Polyesthers (amphyphilic copolymers), PLA-PEG ~~nanoparticles~~, ~~nanoparticles composed of~~

hydrophilic proteins coupled with apolipoprotein E, biodegradable poly(.vepsiln-caprolactone) ~~nanoparticles~~, poly(methylidene malonate), gelatin, poly(E-caprolactone), sodium alginate, agarose hydrogel, PMMA, biotinylated poly(ethylene glycol) conjugated with lactobionic acid, carboxylmethyl dextran magnetic ~~nanoparticles~~, poly(vinyl alcohol) hydrogel, biotinylated pullulan acetate, diblock copolymers or mixtures thereof.

9. (Previously Presented) A method of administering an ophthalmic drug to a patient in need thereof comprising placing on the eye thereof the drug delivery system of claim 1.

10. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising: a) a first component containing at least one drug delivery system of claim 1, and b) a second component containing at least one storage container for said first component, said storage container additionally containing a material that substantially prevents said diffusion and migration of said ophthalmic drug during storage.

11. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 10 wherein said material that substantially prevents said diffusion and migration of said ophthalmic drug is substantially saturated with an aqueous solution of said ophthalmic drug.

12. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 11, wherein the kit is used for the storage and delivery of ophthalmic drugs to the eye of a patient in need thereof.

13. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing the drug delivery system of claim 1 comprising: a) providing said nanoencapsulated ophthalmic drug, and b) preparing said contact lens from materials that incorporate the nanoencapsulated ophthalmic drug, such that the nanoencapsulated ophthalmic drug is substantially uniformly dispersed throughout said contact lens.

14. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture comprising packaging material and the ophthalmic drug delivery system of claim 1 contained within said packaging material,

wherein said packaging material comprises a label which indicates that said ophthalmic drug delivery system can be used for ameliorating symptoms associated with pathologic conditions of the eye.

15. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture comprising packaging material and the kit of claim 12 contained within said packaging material, wherein said packaging material comprises a label which indicates that said first component of said kit can be used for ameliorating symptoms associated with pathologic conditions of the eye and that said second component of said kit can be used for storage of said first component.

16. (Previously Presented) The drug delivery system of claim 6 wherein said antiparisitic or anti-protozoal drug is ivermectin, pyrimethamine or mixtures thereof.

17. (Previously Presented) The drug delivery system of claim 6 wherein said steroid is prednisilone acetate.

18. (Currently Amended) The drug delivery system of claim 6 wherein said non-steroidal anti inflammatory is acular, voltaren, or mixtures thereof.

19. (Previously Presented) The drug delivery system of claim 6 wherein said antibiotic is ciloxan, gentamycin, cephlosporin or mixtures thereof.

20. (New) The drug delivery system of claim 1 wherein said ophthalmic drug is lidocaine, timolol, ciproflaxin, cyclosporin A, or pilocarpine.

21. (New) The drug delivery system of claim 2 wherein said nanoparticles are dispersed within said contact from about 5 to about 20%, by weight, based on the weight of the contact lens.